

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15-20 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 1, 8, and 15-20 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Horie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,720,997, hereinafter “Horie”); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie; Claims 8-14, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie in view of Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,303, herein “Fukushima”).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Horie, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, “wherein said operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image *after the first image and the second image are displayed by the display unit.*”

The outstanding Office Action cited the adjustment of setting switches 14a and 14b by a user to affect the creation of partial images G_A to G_D as “translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image.”² However, Horie discloses that the user adjusts setting switches 14a and 14b before any partial images are taken, much less displayed on a display unit. In fact, as the partial images taken by the camera of Horie are at

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 10, line 20 to page 12, line 3 and page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 20 and Figures 3 and 5.

²See the outstanding Office Action at page 2, lines 13-18.

a higher resolution, the combined picture cannot be displayed by the camera. The final pasted image is simply stored in memory.

For example, in step 2 on Figure 22 of Horie, the photographing mode and conditions are set by the setting switch 14.³ In step 46 on Figure 22 of Horie, a single image of the whole object is displayed.⁴ In step 56 on Figure 23 of Horie, the partial images are taken.⁵ Finally, the partial images are pasted together in step 62 and the final image is stored in memory in step 66.⁶ It is respectfully submitted that the *only* image that is displayed is the *single* whole object image, displayed in step 46.⁷ Thus, *none of the partial images are ever displayed*. Therefore, Horie does not teach or suggest “wherein said operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image *after the first image and the second image are displayed by the display unit*” as recited in Claim 1. Since Horie does not teach each and every element of amended Claim 1, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-7, 21, and 22 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Horie and is patentable thereover.

As amended Claims 15, 17, and 19 recite similar elements to Claim 1, Claims 15, 17, and 19 (and Claims 25, 26, 29, 30, 33, and 34 dependent therefrom) are patentable over Horie for at least the reasons described above with respect to Claim 1.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 8, 16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Horie in view of Fukushima, it is respectfully submitted that Fukushima also does not teach or suggest that “operation instruction signals include translation instructions input by a user to move a first image with respect to a second image *after the first image and the second image are displayed by the display unit*,” as recited in amended Claims 8, 16, and 20, or “displaying a first image and a second image on a display unit” and

³See Horie, column 17, lines 47-51.

⁴See Horie, column 18, lines 60-65.

⁵See Horie, column 19, lines 31-37.

⁶See Horie, column 19, lines 49-54, column 20, lines 29-31, and Figure 23.

⁷See Horie, column 18, lines 60-65.

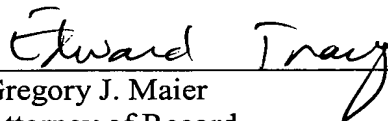
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“translating the first image with respect to the second image based on translation instructions input by a user after displaying the first image and the second image on the display unit” as recited in amended Claim 18. Further, the outstanding Office Action does not cite any portion of Fukushima as describing these features. Consequently, it is further respectfully submitted that amended Claims 8, 16, 18, and 20 (and Claims 9-14 and 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 35, and 36 dependent therefrom) patentably define over Horie and Fukushima.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Edward Tracy
Registration No. 47,998

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